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Sustainable development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Report of the Second Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 20 (see A/67/437, para. 2). Action on sub-item (c) was taken at the 29th, 32nd and 33rd meetings, on 15 and 30 November and 5 December 2012. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/67/SR.29, 32 and 33).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/67/L.6 and A/C.2/67/L.47

2. At the 29th meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International Cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon" (A/C.2/67/L.6), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 52/200 of 18 December 1997, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/220 of 22 December 1999, 55/197 of 20 December 2000, 56/194 of 21 December 2001, 57/255 of 20 December 2002, 59/232 of 22 December 2004, 61/199 of 20 December 2006, 63/215 of 19 December 2008 and 65/158 of 20 December 2010 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/46 of 28 July 1999, 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 and 2000/33 of 28 July 2000,

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"*Noting* that the El Niño phenomenon has a recurring character and can lead to extensive natural hazards with the potential to seriously affect humankind,

"*Reaffirming* the importance of developing strategies at the national, subregional, regional and international levels that aim to prevent, mitigate and repair the damage caused by natural disasters resulting from the El Niño phenomenon,

"*Noting* that technological developments and international cooperation have enhanced the capabilities for the prediction of the El Niño phenomenon and thereby the potential for the preventive actions that may be taken to reduce its negative impacts,

"*Taking into account* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled 'The future we want', the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation'), in particular paragraph 37 (i) thereof,

"*Reaffirming* the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,

"*Acknowledging* the importance of fully taking into account the impact of the El Niño phenomenon in the ongoing efforts to mainstream disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation across the sustainable development agenda,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, in particular the annex to the report, entitled 'Update on international cooperation to reduce the impact of El Niño/La Niña', and calls upon the international community to make further efforts to assist countries affected by this phenomenon;

"2. *Recognizes* the continued efforts being made by the Governments of Ecuador and Spain, the World Meteorological Organization and the inter-agency secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to support the International Research Centre on El Niño at Guayaquil, Ecuador, and encourages them and other members of the international community to continue such contributions for the advancement of the Centre;

"3. *Welcomes* the activities undertaken so far to strengthen the International Research Centre on El Niño, through collaboration with international monitoring centres, including the national oceanographic institutions, and encourages further efforts to enhance regional and international recognition of and support for the Centre and to develop tools for decision makers and Government authorities for reducing the impact of the El Niño phenomenon;

"4. *Acknowledges* the role of the International Research Centre on El Niño in developing tools, including applied research on climate change and vulnerability assessments in highlands, coastal zones, marine protected areas

and urban areas, as well as its role in providing professional training, in the Americas, in the areas of climate analysis, climate risk management, ocean modelling, hydrological outlooks, extreme events analysis and climate adaptation;

"5. *Notes* the contribution of the International Research Centre on El Niño as a reference centre on climate services and climate-related disaster risk reduction, as well as in the area of climate research, including through the development of a new climatic database for El Niño/Southern Oscillation-sensitive countries, and encourages the sharing of best practices with climate centres located in other El Niño-affected regions;

"6. *Recognizes* the technical and scientific support of the World Meteorological Organization in producing regionally coordinated monthly and seasonal forecasts, in particular its establishment of a consensus mechanism for the development of updates on El Niño/La Niña conditions, which receives contributions from several climate centres, including the International Research Centre on El Niño;

"7. *Encourages*, in this regard, the World Meteorological Organization to continue to strengthen collaboration and the exchange of data and information with relevant institutions;

"8. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, the relevant United Nations organs, funds and programmes, in particular those taking part in the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and the international community to adopt, as appropriate, the measures necessary to further strengthen the International Research Centre on El Niño, and encourages the international community to provide scientific, technical and financial assistance and cooperation for this purpose, as well as to strengthen, as appropriate, other centres devoted to the study of the El Niño phenomenon;

"9. *Underlines* the importance of maintaining the El Niño/Southern Oscillation observation system, continuing research into extreme weather events, improving forecasting skills and developing appropriate policies for reducing the impact of the El Niño phenomenon and other extreme weather events, and emphasizes the need to further develop and strengthen these institutional capacities in all countries, in particular developing countries;

"10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction a section on the implementation of the present resolution."

3. At its 32nd meeting, on 30 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon" (A/C.2/67/L.47), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.6.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.47 had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at its 32nd meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.47 (see para. 12, draft resolution I).

6. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.47, draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.6 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/67/L.16 and A/C.2/67/L.50

7. At the 29th meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction" (A/C.2/67/L.16), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 54/219 of 22 December 1999, 60/195 of 22 December 2005, 64/200 of 21 December 2009, 65/157 of 20 December 2010 and 66/199 of 22 December 2012, and taking into consideration all other relevant resolutions,

"*Recalling also* the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation') and the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Reaffirming* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled 'The future we want',

"*Recalling* the results of the midterm review of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,

"*Recognizing* that the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction was confirmed at its third session, held in Geneva from 8 to 13 May 2011, as being the main forum at the global level for strategic advice coordination and partnership development for disaster risk reduction,

"*Taking note* of the special report of Working Groups I and II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change entitled *Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation* launched in Geneva, in March 2012,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 66/199;

"2. *Stresses* the importance of the continued substantive consideration of the issue of disaster risk reduction, and encourages Member States and the relevant United Nations bodies to take into consideration the important role of disaster risk reduction activities for, inter alia, the achievement of sustainable development;

"3. *Welcomes* the upcoming fourth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Geneva from 19 to 23 May 2013, which will focus on the review of the progress concerning the implementation of the commitments undertaken at the first, second and third sessions of the Global

Platform, held in 2007, 2009 and 2011, and encourages Member States and other stakeholders to participate with senior-level representation from various sectors;

"4. *Decides* to convene the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Japan in early 2015 to review the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 and to adopt a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction;

"5. *Requests* the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to serve as the secretariat of the Conference and to coordinate preparatory activities in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, including States, international, regional and subregional organizations, the private sector, civil society and the United Nations system;

"6. *Encourages* Member States and other stakeholders to actively engage in the consultation process for the development of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, including through convening of national multi-stakeholder consultations and sharing of lessons learned on managing disaster risks, as well as through active participation in the regional platforms;

"7. *Encourages* Member States to give adequate consideration to disaster risk reduction and building of resilience within the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, and in this regard, invites Member States to ensure that the approaches to these two processes are coordinated, complementary and coherent;

"8. *Also encourages* Member States, in accordance with their national priorities, to establish and develop national disaster loss databases, and disaster risk mapping and financial tracking systems, in order to support decision-making across all levels of government, and to make full use, as appropriate, of the Hyogo Framework for Action monitoring system in supporting the assessment of progress made in disaster risk reduction;

"9. *Urges* Member States, in a position to do so to ensure resources and support for strengthening the secretariat of the Strategy, so that it can meet the challenges of the upcoming work on sustainable development and the elaboration of the post-2015 disaster risk reduction framework;

"10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to suggest measures for supporting and strengthening further the secretariat of the Strategy so as to enable it to carry out its work effectively, for discussion and approval by Member States;

"11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session, under the item entitled 'Sustainable development', the sub-item entitled 'International Strategy for Disaster Reduction';

"12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

8. At its 33rd meeting, on 5 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction" (A/C.2/67/L.50), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.16.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.50 had no programme budget implications.

10. Also at its 33rd meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.50 (see para. 12, draft resolution II).

11. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.50, draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.16 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

12. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/200 of 18 December 1997, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/220 of 22 December 1999, 55/197 of 20 December 2000, 56/194 of 21 December 2001, 57/255 of 20 December 2002, 59/232 of 22 December 2004, 61/199 of 20 December 2006, 63/215 of 19 December 2008 and 65/158 of 20 December 2010 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/46 of 28 July 1999, 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 and 2000/33 of 28 July 2000,

Noting that the El Niño phenomenon has a recurring character and can lead to extensive natural hazards with the potential to seriously affect humankind,

Reaffirming the importance of developing strategies at the national, subregional, regional and international levels that aim to prevent, mitigate and repair the damage caused by natural disasters resulting from the El Niño phenomenon,

Noting that technological developments and international cooperation have enhanced the capabilities for the prediction of the El Niño phenomenon and thereby the potential for the preventive actions that may be taken to reduce its negative impacts,

Taking into account the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[1] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[2] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[3] in particular paragraph 37 (i) thereof,

Reaffirming the Hyogo Declaration[4] and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[5]

Acknowledging the importance of the ongoing efforts to mainstream disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation across sustainable development efforts, including taking into account the future impacts of El Niño in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation activities,

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[1] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E. 03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[3] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[4] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 1.

[5] Ibid., resolution 2.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction,[6] in particular the annex to the report, entitled "Update on international cooperation to reduce the impact of El Niño/La Niña", and calls upon the international community to make further efforts to assist countries affected by this phenomenon;

2. *Recognizes* the continued efforts being made by the Governments of Ecuador and Spain, the World Meteorological Organization and the inter-agency secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to support the International Research Centre on El Niño at Guayaquil, Ecuador, and encourages them and other members of the international community to continue such contributions for the advancement of the Centre;

3. *Welcomes* the activities undertaken so far to strengthen the International Research Centre on El Niño, through collaboration with international monitoring centres, including the national oceanographic institutions, and encourages further efforts to enhance regional and international recognition of and support for the Centre and to develop tools for decision makers and Government authorities for reducing the impact of the El Niño phenomenon;

4. *Notes* the contribution of the International Research Centre on El Niño as a reference centre on El Niño, including through developing a new climatic database for El Niño/Southern Oscillation-sensitive countries, carrying out applied research in climate change and vulnerability assessments in highlands, coastal zones and marine-protected and urban areas and providing professional training in the Americas, and encourages the sharing of best practices and lessons learned with climate centres located in other El Niño-affected regions;

5. *Recognizes* the technical and scientific support of the World Meteorological Organization in producing regionally coordinated monthly and seasonal forecasts, in particular its establishment of a consensus mechanism for the development of updates on El Niño/La Niña conditions, which receives contributions from several climate centres, including the International Research Centre on El Niño;

6. *Encourages* the World Meteorological Organization, in this regard, to continue to strengthen collaboration and the exchange of data and information with relevant institutions;

7. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, the relevant United Nations organs, funds and programmes, in particular those taking part in the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and the international community to adopt, as appropriate, the measures necessary to further strengthen the International Research Centre on El Niño, and invites the international community to provide scientific, technical and financial assistance and cooperation for this purpose, as well as to strengthen, as appropriate, other centres devoted to the study of the El Niño phenomenon;

8. *Underlines* the importance of maintaining the El Niño/Southern Oscillation observation system, continuing research into extreme weather events, improving forecasting skills and developing appropriate policies for reducing the impact of the El Niño phenomenon and other extreme weather events, and emphasizes the need to

[6] A/67/335.

further develop and strengthen these institutional capacities in all countries, in particular developing countries;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, under the sub-item entitled "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction", a section on the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution II
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 54/219 of 22 December 1999, 56/195 of 21 December 2001, 60/195 of 22 December 2005, 64/200 of 21 December 2009, 65/157 of 20 December 2010 and 66/199 of 22 December 2011, and taking into consideration all other relevant resolutions,

Reaffirming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[1] in particular the decisions related to disaster risk reduction,

Recalling the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[2] Agenda 21,[3] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[4] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[5] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation")[6] and the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[7]

Stressing the importance of stronger interlinkages among disaster risk reduction, recovery and long-term development planning, calling for more coordinated and comprehensive strategies that integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation considerations into public and private investment, decision-making and the planning of humanitarian and development actions in order to reduce risk, increase resilience and provide a smoother transition between relief, recovery and development, and in this regard, recognizing the need to integrate a gender perspective into the design and implementation of all phases of disaster risk management,

Recalling the results of the midterm review of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[8]

Recognizing that the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction was confirmed, at its third session, held in Geneva from 8 to 13 May 2011, as being the main forum at the global level for strategic advice, coordination and partnership development for disaster risk reduction,

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[1] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[5] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[6] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[7] See resolution 65/1.

[8] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

Welcoming the special report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, entitled *Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation*, issued in Geneva, in March 2012,[9]

Emphasizing the added value of Governments, at all levels, as well as relevant subregional, regional and international organizations in committing adequate, timely and predictable resources for disaster risk reduction in order to enhance resilience of cities and communities to disasters, according to their own circumstances and capacities,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 66/199;[10]

2. *Stresses* the importance of the continued substantive consideration of the issue of disaster risk reduction, and encourages Member States and the relevant United Nations bodies to take into consideration the important role of disaster risk reduction activities for, inter alia, the achievement of sustainable development;

3. *Reaffirms* the commitment to the Hyogo Framework for Action,[8] and calls upon States, the United Nations system, international financial institutions, subregional, regional and international organizations and civil society to accelerate implementation of the Framework and the achievement of its goals;

4. *Encourages* Member States, in accordance with their national priorities, to establish and develop national disaster loss databases, disaster risk mapping and financial tracking systems in order to support decision-making across all levels of Government and to make full use, as appropriate, of the Hyogo Framework for Action monitor system to support the assessment of progress made in disaster risk reduction;

5. *Stresses* the need to foster better understanding and knowledge of the causes of disasters, as well as to build and strengthen coping capacities, in particular in developing countries, through, inter alia, the exchange of best practices, technology transfer, as mutually agreed, and technical knowledge, educational and training programmes for disaster risk reduction, access to relevant data and information, the strengthening of institutional arrangements and the promotion of community participation and ownership through community-based disaster risk management approaches;

6. *Recognizes* the importance of the developing of strategies at the national, subregional, regional and international levels by Member States, in particular developing countries, to achieve disaster risk reduction, and reiterates the need to further develop regional initiatives and risk reduction capacities of regional mechanisms where they exist, to strengthen them and to encourage the use and sharing of all existing tools, and requests the regional commissions, within their mandates, to support the efforts of Member States in this regard, in close coordination with the implementing entities of the United Nations system;

7. *Encourages* States to establish disaster risk reduction as a priority for community-level action and to promote the involvement of relevant stakeholders, including community representatives, national Red Cross and Red Crescent

[9] C. B. Field and others, eds. (New York, Cambridge University Press, 2012).
[10] A/67/335.

Societies, other civil society actors and the private sector, and to allocate adequate resources for disaster risk reduction activities at the community level;

8. *Recognizes* the importance of coordinating adaptation to climate change with relevant disaster risk reduction measures, invites Governments and relevant international organizations to integrate those considerations in a comprehensive manner into, inter alia, development plans and poverty eradication programmes and into the preparation and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action, and invites the international community to support the ongoing efforts of developing countries in this regard;

9. *Welcomes* the upcoming fourth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Geneva from 19 to 23 May 2013, which will focus on reviewing progress in the implementation of the commitments made at its previous sessions in 2007, 2009 and 2011, and encourages all relevant stakeholders to participate with senior-level representation from various sectors;

10. *Decides* to convene the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Japan in early 2015 to review the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and to adopt a framework for disaster risk reduction beyond 2015;

11. *Also decides* to consider, before the end of 2013, the scope, modalities, participation, format and organization of the Third World Conference in the most efficient and effective manner possible;

12. *Requests* the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to serve as the secretariat of the Third World Conference, to facilitate the development of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and to coordinate the preparatory activities in consultation with all relevant stakeholders;

13. *Encourages* all relevant stakeholders to actively engage in the consultation process for the development of a framework for disaster risk reduction beyond 2015, including by the sharing of lessons learned on managing disaster risks, for example, through the convening of national multi-stakeholder consultations and participation in regional platforms;

14. *Strongly encourages* giving appropriate consideration to disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience to disasters within the development agenda beyond 2015;

15. *Also strongly encourages* promoting a complementary and coherent approach to the relationship between the framework for disaster risk reduction and the development agenda beyond 2015;

16. *Encourages* all Member States in a position to do so to ensure resources and support for strengthening the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction so that it can meet the challenges of its coming work and discharge its cross-cutting mandate with efficiency and effectiveness;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the institutional arrangements of the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction under review, with a view to supporting it in effectively and efficiently carrying out its cross-cutting mandate and its role as the focal point for disaster reduction within the United Nations system;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction";

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.